to allocate Tapti Gas to Pipavav Power Project at any stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commitment made earlier has not been adhered to by Government so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how Government propose to make any other arrangement for this power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A decision to allocate Tapti gas to the Pipavav power project was taken along with the decision to feed Gandhar gas into the HBJ pipeline.

(c) and (d) It was subsequently decided to allocate Gandhar gas to two power projects in Gujarat and to take Tapti gas to Hazira to meet existing commitments at Hazira and along the HBJ pipeline.

(e) The gas projected to be available in Gujarat is fully allocated. Supply of gas to Pipavav power project can be considered only when the availability of gas improves.

Compensation paid to Victims of vizag fire accident

418 SHRI RAM GAPAL YADAV:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of the fire accident which took place in the Oil Refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) at Vizag;

(b) the number of people killed and injured in that fire accident;

(c) the compensation and suitable rehabilitation measures adopted for the next kith and kin of the people who were killed and the injured persons; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The fire accident in HPCL, Vizag Refinery/Marketing Terminal on 14th September, 1997 resulted in the death of 60 persons, including 14 of HPCL, injuries to 10 besides financial loss of about Rs. 80 crore. The Government have set up a Commission under Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to enquire into this accident. The Commission has been asked to submit its Report within a period of three months.

(c) and (d) The following ex-gratia payment has been made by the HPCL, in coordination with District Administration:—

Ex-gratia payment per deceased	: Rs. 2 lakh
Immediate expenses per deceased for funeral	: Rs. 10,000/-
Injured	: Rs. 10,000/-
Seriously injured	: Rs. 25,000/-

The above payments are in addition to the statutory amount payable. Superannuation Benefit fund Scheme, Group Personnel Accident Insurance and Group Saving Linked Insurance Scheme are also being extended to the HPCL deceased employees beneficiaries as applicable under these schemes. Out of 14 deceased employees of the Corporation, the legal heirs who have opted for employment would be provided employment if otherwise eligible by the HPCL. As regards rehabilitation measures for the deceased workmen of the contractor, the contractors have been asked by HPCL to provide suitable employment to the next of kin of the deceased.